

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7803

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16859

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY THOMAS ENDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJ: CIVAIR: UPCOMING CONSULTATION

REF: STATE 15493

1. I ENJOYED, AND APPRECIATED, THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW
SEA PROBLEMS WITH YOU DURING MY TRIP TO WASHINGTON. AS A
RESULT, I FELT PARTICULARLY REASSURED IN REGARD TO OUR
CIVIL AVIATION TALKS WHICH OPEN HERE OCTOBER 28.

2. I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE CHOICE OF TACTICS FOR
THE TALKS, AND NOW BELIEVE OUR DELEGATION CHIEF SHOULD,
AFTER ASKING THE THAIS TO OUTLINE THEIR PROPOSALS
(WHICH WE BELIEVE REMAIN AS SET FORTH IN JUNE), RESPOND
BY INDICATING OUR FULL WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE A PACKAGE
WHICH MEETS RTG DESIRES FOR LANDING RIGHTS AT GUAM AND
BEYOND TO TOKYO AND SAMOA. AS YOU KNOW FROM OUR REPORTING,
DR. SIRILAK, WHO WILL CHAIR THE THAI DELEGATION, IS HIGHLY
SKEPTICAL OF OUR INTENTIONS IN THESE TALKS, BASED ON THE
UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSIONS REMAINING FROM THE JUNE TALKS, AND
WE BELIEVE DR. SIRILAK HAS A MANDATE TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION
SHOULD THE TALKS ADJOURN ON THE BASIS OF THE STATUS QUO
ANTE. THEREFORE, AN OPENING BID WHICH SHOWS THAT THE
AMERICAN SIDE IS INDEED PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY
WOULD, HOPEFULLY, WHET THE APPETITE OF THAI INTERNATIONAL
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AND AIR SIAM SUFFICIENTLY TO NARROW THE FOCUS OF NEGOTIATION

TO THE ISSUE OF GUAM, AS CONTRASTED WITH THE BROADER RTG REQUEST FOR MIRROR RECIPROCITY IN ROUTES.

3. WE HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED TWA-PAA ROUTE SWAP WITH RTG OFFICIALS, BUT BELIEVE AT THIS POINT IT WILL NOT MODERATE THE RTG DEMANDS. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT PAN AMERICAN CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN REVENUES, AND HOPEFULLY PROFITABILITY, AS TWA WITHDRAWS FROM THE BANGKOK MARKET; I ASSUME, THEREFORE, THAT PAN AMERICAN WILL CONSIDER IT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN IT DID PREVIOUSLY THAT WE AVOID A RUPTURE IN CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS WITH THE RTG.

4. AS YOU KNOW FROM HAVING BEEN OUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR US TO PRESERVE AIR TRAFFIC RIGHTS FOR U.S. CARRIERS IN BANGKOK AND ALSO TO AVOID ACTIONS IN THE FORTH-COMING NEGOTIATIONS WHICH COMPLICATE OUR ALREADY OVERBURDENED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. I HOPE WE MAY HAVE YOUR SUPPORT TO ENSURE THAT U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAM HAS THE PROPER INSTRUCTIONS TO ENABLE US TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES.

5. WARM REGARDS.
KINTNER

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